

AMERICA'S RICH MEN.

The Money Gathered From Various Sources.

Small Beginnings With Some Mighty Endings.

Set It Down for Future Reference.

The rich men of New York—the Vanderbilts, the Goulds, the Astors—everybody knows about. The New York Sun has got together an interesting collection of stories about the rich men of other cities, men who have not such a national reputation. There is no one in Philadelphia, according to the Sun, who is particularly noted for his wealth. The average Philadelphian would be pleased to tell who are the richest citizens, but in Third street, where the brokers are accustomed to meet their partners, the wealthiest men are referred to by Mr. William Weightman, Mr. Frank Drexel and Mr. I. V. Williamson. These gentlemen are supposed to be worth \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 each. It is curious that not one of these men has a hobby of any sort. All live simply and quiet lives. They are fond of fast horses, of yachting, of shooting. Their names are never mentioned in public meetings, and they are never heard of in politics. Mr. Drexel has made his money out of boy's toys. The firm of Powers & Weightman is the greatest in Cincinnati. It is curious that not one of these men has a hobby of any sort. All live simply and quiet lives. They are fond of fast horses, of yachting, of shooting. Their names are never mentioned in public meetings, and they are never heard of in politics.

Mr. I. V. Williamson is a different sort of a man. He is a director of the Philadelphia & Atlantic Railroad. In early life he was a dry goods merchant and invested his money in railway stock. He never purchased on margin. His plan was to buy stocks outright when there was a break in the market, and hold it. He is a benevolent man.

Mr. Francis A. Drexel is at the head of the banking house of Drexel & Co. He lives in a comfortable house in Walnut street about Fifteenth. His life is very quiet. He is passionately fond of music and is never happier than when seated at his organ and surrounded by a large collection of musical works. He is a devout Catholic and gives freely to charities, but always through church channels.

A BENEVOLENT MAN AND A MUSICKER. The rich man in the District of Columbia is probably the venerable W. W. Corcoran. His great start as a capitalist was made during the Mexican war, when he bought government bonds when they were far below par and held them till retirement at their face value. Since then, through speculation he has spent his energies in banking and in the care of his property, which is reported to be worth \$2,500,000. Of late years, however, the active management of his affairs has been in the hands of all absent, himself an aged and wealthy man while Mr. Corcoran has indulged his taste for art and fondness for public charities.

It would be difficult to find more unlike in disposition and style than Mr. Corcoran and the man who is supposed to be his rival, Mr. Joseph A. Willard. Mr. Willard shows how much he is worth. The conjectures of some well-informed citizens vary by millions. Some guess he is not worth a million; others believe he is worth anywhere from five to ten millions. "Joe" Willard is an odd character. He lives all alone in a plain old ironed house in Fourteenth street near F street, which is no haunts, takes part in no public or business enterprises which involve social relations, indulges in no sports or social engagements, never goes to church, has no family except one son, who lives away from home; never speaks with his two brothers, Henry and Caleb, who died a quartered long years ago; and, in short, meets the world as though he had no friends or acquaintances.

He is a quiet, unassuming man, about 50 years old, and his fortune, obtained by inheritance and his chief aim has been the development of his father's great enterprise, the Union Pacific railroad.

Business men estimate John M. Forbes' wealth at about \$15,000,000. He is a man of whose personal life his business associates know but little. He is a well-known Boston merchant. He made money first in the carriage trade, and the bulk of his fortune is in eastern railroad enterprises. Mr. Forbes' residence is a fine old country seat at Milton, whence he often drives into the Boston office. His summer house is a most delightful spot on the island of Nauset, in Buzzard's Bay.

Montgomery Sears is one of the youngest of Boston's millionaires. He is not yet 30, and on attaining his majority he received his millions from the administrators of his father's estate. Not long ago he was made the victim of a most surprising attempt at black-mail. This is the first public allusion to the case that has been made, and the detailed facts are beyond reach. This man is known, that enormous demands for cash were made, and a plot to place Mr. Sears in a compromise position was laid with great skill. The blackmailers spent some thousands of dollars in preparing it, and carried on a voluminous correspondence with their intended victim, and finally had lost all that they had risked and had tried to recover. The chief of the conspiracy was driven mad by the failure of his great stroke for riches, and is now an inmate of an American insane asylum.

RICH MEN OF THE WEST.

John D. Rockefeller is the richest man in Cleveland, and is worth in the neighborhood of \$15,000,000. Every dollar of this vast sum was made, directly or indirectly, out of the Standard Oil Company. Mr. Rockefeller's oil company is the largest in the country, and the brother of the millionaire Lieutenant Governor. The best estimate of Mr. Ames' fortune makes it between \$2,000,000 and \$25,000,000. He is assessed for \$15,000,000.

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